

The LongPath

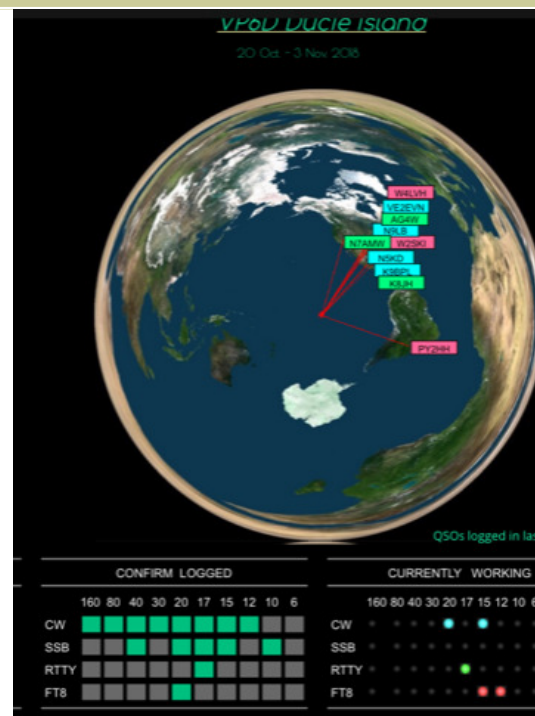
A North Alabama DX Club Publication

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From the President

The CQWW SSB contest is over and I am always interested in reviewing the results. This year I did another 160M Single Band High Power entry. Some would consider it crazy to focus on DX using SSB on 160M. I look at it as a challenge and it also doesn't hurt that I won the two previous years in the US. The conditions were tough this year. Openings to Europe were short and weak. OK7K was the beacon station for me this year. He was my third contact and was always the strongest signal out of Europe this year. Several stations got part of my call right like DFOHQ who twice had a partial and gave up. I had no opening to JA either day. My score turned out to be almost identical to last year. I was 10 percent ahead of last year starting on Sunday, but Sunday morning conditions were poor. I also hoped to add several Europe contacts at the end of the contest at our sunset, but again had poor results. I could hear them, but they could not hear me.



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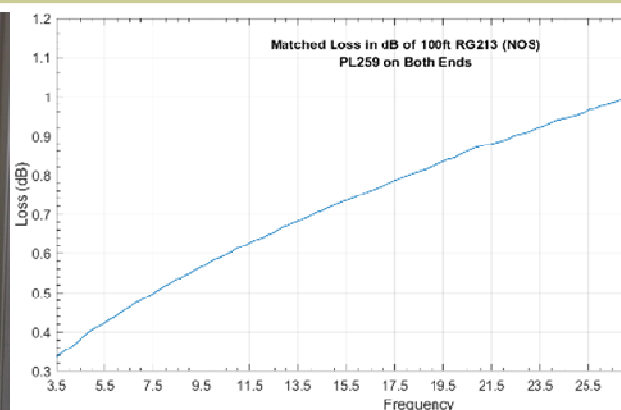
Coaxial Cable

November Program by John Stensby, N5DF



My November NADXC program deals with coaxial cable, a subject of interest to all hams. You will hear a presentation of coax-related topics, some of which are described below.

- Due to the skin effect in coax, copper wire resistive loss varies with the square root of



frequency. In low-loss, foam-dielectric coax, it dominates other loss mechanisms, at least at VHF and below.

- For outdoor applications, a braided coax should have a Polyethylene (PE) jacket that

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How to Join

- * Come to a club meeting;
- * or send in an application by mail (form on www.NADXC.org)
- * or call Tom Duncan at (256)705-2147

From the President

(cont'd from p. 1)

I sure enjoyed working the VP6D DXpedition. It gave me a chance to practice fox/hound on FT8 and I was able to make the 160M contact that I needed. I loved using the DXA tool that gave you real time feedback in 1 minute that you were in the log. That is instant



gratification! It made me want to search for just one more band slot. Even my wife said, are you going to show me everyone of these. It sure beats waiting 12-24 hours for most DXpeditions to update Club Log. I was also impressed with their effort on 10 and 12 meters. I was surprised to make contacts on those bands with no sunspots. The north/south propagation path still works for brief periods. They had some problems with FT8 logging, but they seem to have cleaned it up. As of November 1st they have 113,726 QSOs in the log. That is amazing. I wish that group had gone to one of the really rare countries like Scarborough Reef that I don't have.

I continue to slowly work on my many projects. I have cut holes in the chassis



for the cooling fans and power supplies for my 2 meter solid state amplifier. I ended up burning up my two old Dremels that each had been used on hundreds of projects. It is my get of jail free tool. It comes in handy when I break bolts or screws or have to cut or polish something. It gave me a good excuse to upgrade. I also used my Dremel Sawmax. Those tools are also both great for antenna projects. Eventually I have to quit designing and try something and see if it works. Then I'll

try and make it better. Some call that spiral development.

I encourage everyone to go out and check their antennas before the really cold weather arrives. It is much easier to make a repair now than in January. I look for tie wraps that have become brittle from the sun and are about to break, loose bolts, coax condition, and tape jobs that are potentially no longer waterproof. Be safe when climbing towers.

I expect that Stephen Smith's ARRL Outgoing QSL mailing will increase in the next 2 months. Both Bob (K8KI) and I got big mailings from the bureau in the last 2 weeks. I expect others had the same thing happen. Now I need to dedicate a rainy day to filling out bureau QSL cards.

I am looking forward to John's (N5DF) presentation on "Coax Tips for the Radio Amateur" at this month's club meeting. That is a great topic. I also look forward to hearing who the nominating committee recommends for officers for next year. I will support them the same way Mark (N4BCD) helped me this year.

73 Steve AG4W

November Program

(cont'd from p. 1)

is black, shiny, slippery and somewhat stiff. In the sales literature, look for the words "Direct Bury". Hardline, with a solid copper or aluminum jacket, may be a better, but more-expensive, choice.

- Many ham radio publications describe a well-known loss formula that utilizes the coax input reflec-

tion coefficient computed for **either** a short or open coax termination. (One is as good as the other, some people say!) However, a loss calculation made with a shorted cable output can be significantly different from its counterpart made with an open cable termination.

- For use with a one-port analyzer,

the most accurate cable loss formula utilizes **two** values of input reflection coefficient, the first made with the cable output open, and the second made with the output shorted.

Come to the NADXC November meeting and hear all of the details! 5:30 for dinner, 6:30 for the business meeting.

October 9, 2018 NADXC Meeting Minutes

By Kelley Johns, W4VPZ—NADXC Secretary/Treasurer

Attendance

Members 22

Review of Sign-in Sheet & DX worked:

Rob NN4NT	2 ATNO's:
9X0Y Rwanda, 5W0GC Samoa	
Art N4UC	ATNO: 9X0T
Steve AG4W	9X0 80m
John N5DF	TT8KO (Chad)
20m & 15m CW	
Warren K4MMW	9X0Y Rwanda
Bob KC4TNC	Fiji
Stephen KK4TJP	TK5 & S01
Tim AB4B	9X0
Mark N4BCD	ZD9CW 15m
RTTY, 5G0ZC 17m, 9X0T 17m	

Announcements

An overview of the status of Tom N4KG's remaining estate hardware was given. The aluminum/tower/antenna parts are being placed with purchasers by Tim AB4B. Anything left after that will probably go into another yard sale unless other ideas are offered. The house will probably go on the market in December.

The LongPath Staff

Publisher/Editor:

Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

Departments:

Chuck Lewis, N4NM, DX Contests

Kelley Vann-Johns, W4VPZ, Minutes

Steve Werner, AG4W, From the President

Contest and DX season has started. Propagation is strange and you can tell there are no sunspots. 9X0 is active. Bruce AC4G got him on 160m last night, and several other members have logged 9X0 also.

Another option for low-sunspot conditions is VHF – which is the topic of tonight's program.

Treasurer's Report for September

Beginning Balance	\$ 9,045.91
Credits	
Banquet Tickets	\$ 401.53
N4KG Estate Sales	\$ 165.00
Donation from Hamfest	\$ 200.00
Member Dues	\$ 36.70
Memorials for N4KG, K4XH, & K4JD	\$ 300.00

(from Gigaparts)

Debits

Banquet Speaker Travel	\$ 627.34
ARRL Plaque (K4JD)	\$ 250.00
Ending Balance	\$ 9,271.80

The minutes and treasurer's report were approved by the membership.

The December meeting and Christmas party will be at Terranova's Italian Restaurant this year, and will be on the regular second-Tuesday meeting night.

Our November meeting will be for 2019 officer elections (and ham of the

year). We will install our new officers at the December meeting.

A nominating committee was named: Jim N4KH, Anita KD2KAG, and Tim AB4B.

Old Business

Since the Fall picnic was cancelled, we will try to schedule it in the Spring instead.

The meeting adjourned for the program.

October Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report for October 2018

Beginning Balance	\$ 9,271.80
Ending Balance	\$ 9,271.80

Don't Forget!

This coming meeting is special, being the last "regular" meeting of the year before the Christmas party. On Tuesday we will elect officers for the upcoming year and will also be voting for NADXC DXer of the Year.

NADXC Officers and Directors

President	Steve Werner, AG4W
Vice President	Rob Suggs, NN4NT
Secretary/	Kelley Vann-Johns, W4VPZ
Treasurer	
At-large	Kevin Hibbs, KG4TEI
Directors	Tom Duncan, KG4CUY